

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 31-54 and 61 as follows. Please cancel claims 55-60 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 62-77 as follows.

1 - 30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

sending a request for group establishment from one user equipment acting as a master user equipment to at least one slave user equipment over a first communications network; ~~said request prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in a second communications network;~~

receiving from the at least one slave user equipment a response comprising ~~user information~~ information on a user for group establishment, over the first communications network;

creating, by the master user equipment, the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment, the group comprising the master user equipment and the at least one slave user equipment;

sending, by the master user equipment, the information on the created group to a group management server in the a second communications network for establishing the communications group in the second communications network comprising user equipments; ~~and~~

~~using the second communications network for group communication of the group.~~

32. (Currently Amended) A method, ~~of establishing a communications group in a communications network further comprising:~~

sending a request for group establishment from a master user equipment to at least one slave user equipment over a first communications network, ~~said request prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment in a second communications network;~~

receiving from the at least one slave user equipment over the first communications network a response comprising ~~user information~~ on a user for group establishment;

creating, by the master user equipment, the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment, the group comprising the master user equipment and the at least one slave user equipment; and

sending, by the master user equipment, the information on the created group to all members of the group over ~~the~~ a second communications network.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 31, wherein at least one of the request or the response is ~~one of the following:~~ a multicast request, a point-to-point request, a short message request, an instant message request, an e-mail message request, a multimedia message request, a unified messaging message request, a ~~Wireless Application Protocol~~ wireless application protocol message request, or an ~~Session Initiation Protocol~~ session initiation protocol message request.

34. (Currently Amended) A—The method according to claim 31, further comprising ~~the master equipment~~, in creating or modifying the group, checking, by the master user equipment, the response from slave user equipment and if the information of the slave user equipment is acceptable, adding the slave user equipment to the group.

35. (Currently Amended) A—The method according to claim 31, wherein the request comprises a file which guides the user of the slave user equipment to send only the information needed to establish the group to the master user equipment.

36. (Currently Amended) A—The method according to claim 31, wherein the request comprises a file which guides the slave user equipment to send only the information needed to establish the group to the master user equipment.

37. (Currently Amended) A—The method according to claim 31, further comprising retrieving, by the master user equipment, a file for the request from ~~at least one of the communications network~~ at least one of the first communication network, and the second communication network, from its memory, or from the slave user equipment.

38. (Currently Amended) A—The method according to claim 31, further comprising retrieving, by the master user equipment, a file for the request.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~A—~~The method according to claim 31, wherein the ~~communications medium first communication network is one of the following short-range communications media or networks:~~ a circuit switched network, a packet switched network, a wireless local area network, an ~~IrDA~~ infrared data association network, a Bluetooth medium, or a network according to the ~~IEEE~~ Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 802.11 standards.

40. (Currently Amended) ~~A—~~The method according to claim 31, wherein the second communications network is ~~one of the following networks:~~ a digital mobile communications network, a circuit switched network, or a packet switched network.

41. (Currently Amended) ~~A—~~The method according to claim 31, further comprising:

before sending the request from the master user equipment to at least one slave user equipment, selecting, by the master user equipment, an identification to be used in the information interchange.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~A—~~The method according to claim 31, further comprising sending the request by using multicasting.

43. (Currently Amended) A—The method according to claim 31, further comprising sending the request by using broadcasting.

44. (Currently Amended) A—The method according to claim 41, wherein the identification is an ~~Mobile Station Integrated Services Digital Network~~ mobile station integrated services digital network number.

45. (Currently Amended) A—The method according to claim 31, further comprising sending, by the master user equipment, the request automatically when new user equipment enters a predetermined area.

46. (Currently Amended) A—The method according to claim 45, further comprising:

detecting entrance of a client or new user equipment into the predetermined area[[],]; and

sending the request over the ~~communications medium~~ first communications network at least in the proximity of the entrance point.

47. (Currently Amended) A—The method according to claim 45, further comprising:

sending the request periodically over the ~~communications medium~~ first communication network at least in the proximity of the entrance point to the predetermined area.

48. (Currently Amended) A—The method according to claim 31, further comprising deleting, by the master user equipment, user equipment from a group when the user equipment exits a predetermined area or after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

49. (Currently Amended) A—The method according to claim 48, further comprising:

detecting exit of a client or user equipment from the predetermined area[[],];

sending an identification request over the ~~communications medium~~ first communication network at least in the proximity of the exit point[[],]; and

deleting a group member from the group on the basis of a response to the identification request, if any.

50. (Currently Amended) A—The method according to claim 31, further comprising sending, by the master user equipment or another device provided with the group information, advertisements to the group members over the second communications network.

51. (Currently Amended) ~~A user equipment comprising a group communications capability, the equipment further~~ An apparatus, comprising:

means for sending a request for group establishment to at least one slave user equipment over a first communications network; ~~said request prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment for communication in a second communication network;~~

means for receiving from at least one slave user equipment over the first communications network a response comprising ~~user information~~ on user for group establishment;

means for creating the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment; and

means for sending the information on the created group to a group management server in the a second communications network for establishing said group.

52. (Currently Amended) ~~A user equipment comprising a group communications capability, the equipment further~~ An apparatus, comprising:

means for sending a request for group establishment to at least one slave user equipment over a first communications network; ~~prompting the user of the slave user equipment to send user information for group establishment;~~

means for receiving from at least one slave user equipment over the first communications network a response comprising ~~user information~~ on a user for group establishment;

means for creating the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment; and

means for sending the information on the created group to all members of the group via the first communications network.

53. (Currently Amended) ~~User equipment~~ The apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the ~~communications medium~~ first communication network ~~include~~ includes ~~one of the following short range communications media or networks:~~ a circuit switched network, a packet switched network, a wireless local area network, an ~~IrDA~~ infrared data association network, a Bluetooth medium, or a network according to the ~~IEEE~~ Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 802.11 standards.

54. (Currently Amended) ~~User equipment~~ The apparatus according to claim 51, wherein the first communication network is ~~one of the following networks:~~ a digital mobile communications network, a circuit switched network, a packet switched network, a wireless local area network, an ~~IrDA~~ infrared data association network, a Bluetooth network, or a network according to the ~~IEEE~~ Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 802.11 standards.

55-60 (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 31, further comprising:

modifying the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment; and

sending, by the master user equipment, information on the modified group to the second ~~mobile~~ communications network.

62. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a first transceiver configured to send a request for group establishment to at least one slave user equipment over a first communications network;

a receiver configured to receive from at least one slave user equipment over the first communications network a response comprising information on user for group establishment;

a grouping unit configured to create the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment; and

a second transceiver configured to send the information on the created group to a group management server in a second communications network for establishing said group.

63. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a first transceiver configured to send a request for group establishment to at least one slave user equipment over a first communications network;

a receiver configured to receive from at least one slave user equipment over the first communications network a response comprising information on a user for group establishment;

a grouping unit configured to create the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment; and

a second transceiver configured to send the information on the created group to all members of the group via the first communications network.

64. (New) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for controlling a computer to perform a method, the method comprising:

sending a request for group establishment from one user equipment acting as a master user equipment to at least one slave user equipment over a first communications network;

receiving from the at least one slave user equipment a response comprising information on a user for group establishment, over the first communications network;

creating, by the master user equipment, the group based on the information received in responses from the at least one slave user equipment, the group comprising the master user equipment and the at least one slave user equipment; and

sending, by the master user equipment, the information on the created group to a group management server in a second communications network for establishing the communications group in the second communications network comprising user equipments.

65. (New) The computer program according to claim 64, wherein at least one of the request or the response is a multicast request, a point-to-point request, a short message request, an instant message request, an e-mail message request, a multimedia message request, a unified messaging message request, a wireless application protocol message request, or an session initiation protocol message request.

66. (New) The computer program according to claim 64, wherein the first communications network is a circuit switched network, a packet switched network, a wireless local area network, an infrared data association network, a Bluetooth medium, or a network according to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 802.11 standards.

67. (New) The computer program according to claim 64, wherein the second communications network is a digital mobile communications network, a circuit switched network, or a packet switched network.

68. (New) The computer program according to claim 64, wherein the method further comprises sending the request by using multicasting.

69. (New) The computer program according to claim 64, wherein the method further comprises sending the request by using broadcasting.

70. (New) The computer program according to claim 64, wherein the method further comprises sending, by the master user equipment, the request automatically when new user equipment enters a predetermined area.

71. (New) The computer program according to claim 70, wherein the method further comprises:

sending the request periodically over the first communications network at least in the proximity of the entrance point to the predetermined area.

72. (New) The computer program according to claim 64, wherein the method further comprises deleting, by the master user equipment, user equipment from a group

when the user equipment exits a predetermined area or after a predetermined period of time has elapsed.

73. (New) The computer program according to claim 64, wherein the method further comprises sending, by the master user equipment or another device provided with the group information, advertisements to the group members over the communications network.

74. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the group management server is for one of presence and instant messaging.

75. (New) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the group management server is for one of presence and instant messaging.

76. (New) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the first communications network includes a circuit switched network, a packet switched network, a wireless local area network, an infrared data association network, a Bluetooth medium, or a network according to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers 802.11 standards.

77. (New) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the second communications network is a digital mobile communications network, a circuit switched network, or a packet switched network.